

ABSTRACT

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Monoclonal antibodies are provided that can bind to the IL12R β 2 chain expressed on the cell surface of human lymphocytes, where said binding prevents the IL12R β 2 chain-mediated STAT4 phosphorylation and/or said binding prevents the IL12R β 2 chain from the formation of a complex with other membrane associated proteins, and/or said binding prevents the IL12R β 2 chain from dimerization to the IL12R β 1 chain. The antibodies may be combined with autoantigens or with antibodies to co-stimulatory receptors on T-cells or antigen presenting cells. These antibodies and their combinations are also provided as pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of autoimmune diseases.